Deep Sea Bed Exploration

2246. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries who have been allotted Pioneer status in deep sea-bed exploration;

(b) whether India has developed technology for mining Poly-metallic nodules;

(c) if so, the details of the programme; and

(d) the economic potential and benefit foreseen though development of technology for mining as well as for processing Polymetallic nodules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) India, Sovit Union, France, Japan and China are the countries who were allotted pioneer status in deep seabed exploration.

(b) and (c). India has a programme of developing a deep seabed test mining system in step with technological developments in other advanced countries and in view of its ready convertibility to a commercial system whenver the international market situation so demands. The deep seabed test mining project is being implemented by the Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute, Durgapur, as the nodal agency alongwith a large group of industries and R & D centers in the country. The system would be progressively developed through various stages from a land based shallow water facility to a low value but fully operational deep seabed mining system at depths of 5 km.

(d) The direct economic potential and benefit foreseen through the development of technology for mining as well as processing of polymetallic nodules relates to the saving of foreign exchange which is being spent on the import of all the country's requirement of Cobalt and Nickel and about half the requirement of Copper. Production of these metals from polymetallic nodules will, therefore, save considerable amount of foreign exchange. The development of this technology also has a high innovative potential an three will be spin off benefits in other fields.

[*Translation*]

Development Scheme of Uttar Pradesh

2247. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh have sent some development schemes to the Planning Commission for approval;

(b) if so, the names and location of these schemes; and

(c) the action taken by the Planning Commission on each scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The State Government is yet to furnish their Draft Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97) and AnnualPlan (1992-93) proposals in this regard to the Planning Commission.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Drinking Water Project in Jaunpur District of U.P. with World Bank Assistance

2248. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: